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U. S. HAS 'BRIDEGROOM ARMY' IN FRANCE; BRIDES' LETTERS OFTEN DELAYED TWO MONTHS

Mail System in Bad Way Because of Overworked Clerks—Weekly Statement From Pershing Urged—Our Boys Have Sugar and White Bread.

By Martin Green.

(Special Staff Correspondent of The Evening World.)

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SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE, March 4.

IF there are people in New York still addicted to the accursed habit of association with the Demon Rum, they may be interested in the latest Paris drink. It is called the poilu cocktail, and was invented by a bartender named Adolf, who is employed in a cafe which is a favorite resort of officers from all the Allied Armies. Inasmuch as officers are not allowed to drink alcoholic spirits in any form at any time, and many of them sometimes feel the need of a stimulant, Adolf concocted a camouflage. He uses one-third white port wine, one-third sherry, a couple of dashes of Angostura bitters and one-third champagne. He frappe the mixture and serves it with a little piece of lemon peel floating on top.

The drink sells for one and a half francs—approximately 30 cents—but I suppose champagne is so high in New York that the poilu cocktail would be quite beyond the reach of a conservative imbibitor. Drinkable champagne can be purchased in France, I am told, for \$1.60 a quart.

Returning to Paris yesterday from the front, I found a new waiter at the little hotel where I live. He is Frank, once head waiter in the Knickerbocker gill and on the terrace. Frank is known to thousands of New Yorkers and to thousands of people from other cities who have lived at the Knickerbocker. He has just been discharged from the Italian Army, where he had his left eye shot out and a part of his face blown away in a battle during the great Italian retreat. He can still see a tip with his remaining eye.

I have mixed a lot with the men of our army in the field, and feel justified, from what I have been told, in calling it an army of bridegrooms. A surprising large number of our young officers have confided to me that they were married just before they left the United States, and I have been favored with glimpses of photographs of hundreds of pretty American brides, said photographs being invariably carried in a case resting in the left pocket of the O. D. skirt of the particular officer who has arrived the bride—right over his heart. The way most of the officers come to talk about being married is in complaints about the slowness of the mail.

Our army mail system is in a pretty bad way, because the postal clerks are overworked, the frequent troop movements are confusing and our soldiers and their people are the most prolific letter writers in the world. It is pretty tough on bridegrooms who haven't heard from their wives for two or three months, and I have met many such.

Occasionally a bridegroom gets fifteen or twenty or more letters in a bunch, and if he is a careful soldier he prolongs the enjoyment of hearing from his beloved by reading only one letter a day.

"They're alike the world over," remarked an American officer to me the other day as we stood in line at the ticket window of a railroad station in a town somewhere in France. We had been in line for fifteen minutes, the train was due and the ticket agent was expensively deliberate and methodical. He knew the train was half an hour late, but the prospective passengers didn't. Into the station bustled a middle-aged French woman.

She promptly took her place at the ticket window, pushing away the man at the head of the line, and explained at some length to the agent that she wanted a ticket entitling her to ride to a certain point. The agent, after considerable conversation, produced the ticket. Then the woman put a hand bag on the ledge of the ticket window and opened it.

From the handbag she extracted a smaller bag which she opened. Then an American Army officer stationed at one of our ports of debarkation came to Paris yesterday and put up at my hotel. I had known him for years, and we had quite a reunion. Last night we attended a theatrical performance in a large concert hall. A clever Parisian company presents a revue at this place of amusement. In the review is one scene representing the adventures of an American soldier on the platform of a French railroad station. The American soldier is supposed to have just arrived from the United States.

"I saw this act when I was here last in November," the officer told me. "It's a great act. It shows the hearty spirit of friendship which the American manifest toward our boys in khaki. You'll get a lot of good laughs out of it."

We, I didn't get any laughs out of it. The uniform worn by the comedian who represented the American soldier was fashioned after a clownish design. His language was often indecent.

The remarks addressed to him by the other characters were mocking and sarcastic. My officer friend and I left at the close of the act, and for a time as we walked toward our hotel he was very thoughtful.

"That act," he said, finally, "has been entirely rewritten since I saw it in November. The spirit of good will that animated it then has been eliminated. And did you note how the French audience enjoyed it?"

I had noted it, and after that we were both very thoughtful.

FORMER FRENCH ADVANCE AT ST. QUENTIN



French troops are seen at the Canal du Nord, just destroyed, and midway between Nesle and Ham. This picture was taken last year, when the French and British forces attempted to capture St. Quentin from the Germans. They are shown crossing a bridge over the Canal du Nord, just destroyed, and midway between Nesle and Ham.

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There are few French soldiers on the streets of Paris these days. There are few French soldiers on the streets of any town in France. But up along the French line of defense there are hundreds of thousands of soldiers, great masses of artillery, mountains of ammunition.

For weeks the French have been preparing for the threatened German offensive, and they are ready. So are the British ready on their line. Millions of soldiers, tens of thousands of guns, mountains of ammunition, reserves stretching back for miles and miles, hundreds of square acres of brand new hospitals ready for the wounded, thousands of supply trucks and ambulances.

And our sector is also ready for anything which the Germans may attempt. The actual developments will probably have been recorded by the time the mails carry this to New York.

From a French standpoint, it looks as though Germany is rushing her armies into Russia with top speed in order to get a secure grip on the Government of that badly disorganized country before there can be any coherent and effective revolution started.

"Why," asks one authority, "should Germany sacrifice 200,000 or 300,000 in an offensive on the western front when with that number of men she can overrun Russia?"

France understands the menace of the situation in Russia, but in view of the recent declaration of Lloyd George that the Allies should let Russia work out her own problems, it is doubtful if Great Britain does.

President Wilson's plea that the Allies attempt to help Russia indicates that the Government of the United States is pretty close to the facts as to the steadily growing German domination in the chaotic new Russian Republic.

News relating to war activities in the United States, printed in the newspapers reaching our camps in France, furnishes mingled amusement and amazement. For instance, we read, in a headquarters on the front, a few days ago, an account in The World of how the Saboteur Observation Society had succeeded in postponing from Sunday to Monday a proposed parade of the 30th Infantry through the streets of New York.

The man who read the article and all who listened to him had been under German fire the preceding Sunday; in fact the German is generally kinder with his artillery on Sunday than on any other day of the week, and some of the biggest battles of this war have been fought on Sunday.

The idea that a little notice of Saboteur in New York would be so far removed from realization of the realities of modern warfare of any kind of

warfare—would be incredible were it not that the facts were set down before us in black and white. And a host of trained American aviators who haven't been able to get their feet on the ground in France were astonished to read in The World of Feb. 1 that Col. E. A. Decade, assistant manager of the Signal Corps, had told a Congressional committee of the work that has been done in the completion of aeroplanes, including bombing and battle planes.

This was astonishing news at that time, and developments up to the present have made it no less astonishing. Frequent statements given out by Government officials in the United States are puzzling when placed side by side with existing conditions in France. Not that we haven't done as well over here as the military leaders expected we could; but the danger is that the people in the United States, gaining their information almost entirely from these statements, will naturally expect of the armed forces in France more than ordinary men and machinery can humanly accomplish within a limit of time.

If the War Department would obtain, once a week, from Gen. Pershing, an exact statement of what is being done in France—the statement to contain no information as to the disposition of our forces which would be of actual aid to the enemy—and if this statement were printed broadcast in the press of the United States there would be less danger of a disappointment which, emphasized by pro-German and pacifist propaganda, may be more disquieting than news even of reverses, to the people at home.

Our officers must be trained as well as our men, and the absolute impossibility of transforming civilians into competent, dependable officers in three months, or even six months, should be realized right now.

France is now on a bread ration. The manufacture of candies and sweets in general has been prohibited. Cake baking is not allowed. Sugar has been withdrawn from circulation. Butter has disappeared from bills of fare. But as yet there are no restrictions on the use of meat. France fairly abounds with fresh meat of all kinds. Poultry is plentiful. Fresh eggs are flooding the market. Vegetables and fruits are as plentiful as in the United States or Great Britain. Milk is scarce.

Food for live stock is also scarce, and this may account to some extent for the penitence of the meat supply, but the fields of France outside the war zone are under cultivation, and with reasonably fair weather pastures should soon be supplying cattle and sheep with nourishing food.

Considering that France has lost so much territory and has such a heavy percentage of her man power engaged in the non-productive—destructive, rather—work of war, food conditions are more than satisfactory.

As for the American soldier, his rations have not been curtailed. He gets white bread and sugar for his coffee and puddings and sweetmeats when the opportunity offers for these additions to the menu in camp.

It was a matter of common knowledge among newspaper men in Washington last summer that the distribution of press agents' press

gangs which found its speedy and certain way into waste baskets to relieve the print paper situation, could the waste be stopped. Over here in France we are using up tons and tons and tons of paper which, but for our voluminous system of red tape records, could be saved for more useful purposes.

At all our headquarters armies of clerks are pounding out and filing away mountains of records which will never be of any use to anybody. Recently a department engaged in conducting a branch of war activities moved from one city to another. This department was established last August with a small staff and started with a couple of filing cases. When it was moved, after a little more than five months of work, the filing cases and old wooden boxes filled with records loaded five freight cars.

In the new quarters the hallways outside the offices are blocked with piles of boxes of records that have not been opened since the removal, and probably never will be opened; but if this particular department moves again, all these records now accumulating on and around the desks of chiefs and subordinates will have to be moved again. I hesitate to think of the fleet of great steamships that will be required to take the records of our military establishment home after the war is over. And how they are to be packed within the limits of the District of Columbia on top of all the records that are being filed away by bureaus in Washington is a prospect that staggers the imagination.

The difference between a French War Department bureau and one of ours leaves a lasting impression on the minds of observers. The French officer and clerk always keeps his desk clean. His rooms are not encumbered with piles of filing cases and boxes packed with papers and forms.

We are gradually burying ourselves under a mass of records because the War Department is handling the affairs of the biggest army the United States ever assembled along the lines that were followed a few years ago by the commandant and Quartermaster of a little army post in Arizona. The multiplicity of detail makes for divided authority and breeds on the part of everybody in authority or against whom responsibility may be lodged vigorous and unfeeling devotion to the great American game of passing the buck.

Our supplies are moving slowly in France, and the congestion at certain important points is growing worse and worse, not alone because we are working against the hardest transportation problem any army ever handled but because the War Department still adheres to the system of accountability which was in vogue when our army consisted of a few scattered men scattered in small units over thousands of miles of territory, and each of these units was independent of every other. We have a coordination department in our headquarters in charge of clever, hard-working officers, and they are doing the best they can, but until there is a great awakening in the State War and Navy Building in Washington, co-ordinating our supply and transportation, problems in France must continue to approximate the task of co-ordinating a railroad of cannon balls rolling down the side of a mountain.

Picture of Electro-Magnetic Gun Appeared in the Electrical Experimenter.

The illustration of the electro-magnetic gun, printed in yesterday's Evening World was reprinted from the Electrical Experimenter, not the Electrical Engineer, as stated.

TRADING IN LIBERTY BONDS BREAKS RECORD ON MARKET: SOLD IN LOTS OF MILLIONS

Tremendous Boom Follows Terms of New Loan as Announced in Washington.

The largest bond transactions on the Stock Exchange in a market which sold in two hours and a half a greater total than for any full day session was the feature to-day following the Government's announcement of the new war loan. The dealings were largely in Liberty Bonds now outstanding.

The record transaction was that of the sale of \$1,700,000 Second 4's Liberty Bonds, which went at \$7.50. The previous high record on the Exchange was reached on Oct. 19, 1917, when \$1,000,000 of 3-1-2 Liberty Bonds were sold at \$9.72.

Up to 1 P. M. the total Liberty Bond sales on the Exchange aggregated \$23,258,000. The nearest approach to this record was made Nov. 11, 1914, when the total of bonds changing hands was \$15,092,500.

The unprecedented heavy trading in Liberty Bonds, which carried along with it unusually brisk transactions all down the line of the bond market, was the result of the publication to-day of the generous terms of the new Liberty Loan issue. At the opening of the Exchange it was shown at once that there was a remarkable buying movement about.

Second 4's went in the heaviest blocks, as follows: \$1,700,000 at \$7.50, \$1,000,000 at \$7.52, \$1,000,000 at \$7.52, \$1,000,000 at \$7.54. Liberty First 4's rose from 95.92 to 97.52 in the early hours of trading. Liberty 3-1-2's, which closed at 98.20 last night, touched 99.

The top price for First 4's was \$7.70. From a top price of \$7.78 for Second 4's the price declined to \$7.64 at one o'clock.

C. D. Barney & Co., which has always been the leader in dealing in Liberty Bonds, were credited with the purchase of \$10,000,000 of Second 4's up to 12.30. The opinion of the market was that this firm was either purchasing for a permanent investment or to exchange for the forthcoming new loan bonds; the market would not stand a sale of such an amount.

Finch & Tarbell bought \$2,500,000 of Liberty 4's. After the noon hour there was a reaction from the morning's prices. The 3-1-2's dropped from 99 to 98.72. First 4's declined to \$7.50. Second 4's sold off to \$7.64 from a high of \$7.78.

Bankers evidently were surprised at the relatively small amount of the new issue, as well as the interest it having been confidently predicted that the new issue would be put out on a 4-1-2 per cent basis. Certain other features of the new loan, including its non-convertible clause, also were regarded as especially advantageous to existing issues.

The general market held strong at last night's closing prices, despite the slightly less favorable reports from the Picardy battlefield. Marine preferred and Mexican Petroleum advanced from a point to 12.4 in early trading. There was no slump in any of the prices established yesterday.

There were many rumors of artificial support of the market. But the best information seemed to be that Washington was in touch with several large banking houses before the opening on Monday and had given guarantees of support if the necessity should arise.

NEW LIBERTY LOAN OF \$3,000,000,000 GOES TO CONGRESS

Third Issue, to Be Put Out April 6, Will Pay 4-1-2 Per Cent.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—The new war loan was set out to-day on a brief billion-a-day program. Between to-day and the end of the week leaders want to pass a \$2,000,000 bond bill. Of this \$2,000,000,000 is for the Third Liberty Loan, to be opened April 6. The remainder \$1,000,000,000 added to the \$2,445,000,000 remaining unissued from former bond authorizations, will give the Treasury Department \$3,445,000,000 for interest on the loan, new bonds to the Allies and for further issues of Treasury certificates, through which the current expenses of the war are raised.

Representative Kitchin, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, expected to introduce the bond bill to-day, and will move to

PERSHING GIVES PROMOTION TO 30 AMERICANS ABROAD

WASHINGTON, March 26.—Thirty American soldiers fighting in France have won promotion by recommendation of Gen. Pershing.

In the list are two captains, twenty-six first lieutenants and two second lieutenants. Twenty-two of the first lieutenants were given commissions in the aviation section.

At the same time a list of 500 other men who have been commissioned in the Officers' Reserve Corps was made public, including thirteen majors, two lieutenant colonels and forty-one captains.

The two men recommended for captaincy by Gen. Pershing are Julian H. Marshall and H. Harvey Cabell Jr., commissioned in the Quartermaster's Corps.

The lieutenant colonels appointed to the Officers' Reserve Corps are Charles H. Tenney, Springfield, Mass., and Clarence W. Watson, Fairmont, W. Va., ordnance. Among the captains appointed in the aviation section are Samuel S. Palmer and Ernest K. Shibley of New York, William C. Deming of Georgetown, Conn.; Frank F. Finney of Bark, N. Y.; Daniel C. O'Neal of Birmingham, N. Y.; Russell M. Rome of Brooklyn, Leonard P. Sprague of Chateaufort, N. Y., and Robert S. Starr of Hartford, Conn.

(For Quotations See Page 10.)

GERMAN LOSSES GREAT, SAYS BERLIN VORWAERTS

However, Correspondent at the Front Declares They Are Smaller Than Expected.

COPENHAGEN, March 26.—The correspondent at the front of the Berlin Vorwaerts declares the German losses, while great, are smaller than were expected, according to advices received here to-day. He reports the use of "stormtroops" (recently German tanks) in great numbers. He also mentions the Kaiser as being in the front line, and declares the German ruler is "working early and late."

PROF. EMERY IS TAKEN TO GERMANY A PRISONER

Major From Yale Removed From Aland Islands to Dantzig on Transport.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—Major Henry C. Emery, the Yale professor taken prisoner by the Germans on the Aland Islands, has been taken on a German transport to Dantzig, Germany. American Minister Morris, in Sweden, reported to the State Department to-day that the Swedish Foreign Office had ascertained the whereabouts of the American officer.

Although it was supposed at the time a party of Americans and British trying to escape the German occupation of the Aland Islands were captured, that they would be taken to German prison camps, this is the first official information that Prof. Emery actually was taken to the camp at Dantzig. He is an officer of the Reserve Corps and was recently married in Russia.

At the time of his capture, he was

deliveries guaranteed for Easter

Big Wednesday Sale 1000 Easter Suits

Stunning Last-Minute Models All at the One Special Price \$25

A new assortment—each a most formidable rival of the best the metropolis is offering to-day at \$35—and, fortunately, just in time for last-day shoppers.

Smart Men's Wear Serges Gabardines, Jerseys, Oxfords, Tweeds, Poplins In Stunning New Colors

Models offering every dignified and desired variation of ultra-smart new bolder, Eton, ripple-back or plain-tailored models. In all sizes for matron or debutante—silk lined. You will appreciate them.

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